



PROBUS Canada Connections



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A key goal of PROBUS Canada's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan is to increase our membership year over year. The Ambassador Program provides logistical and financial support for new Probus clubs start-ups, either in underserved areas or in areas where existing clubs have long waiting lists. The Program is staffed by two former PROBUS Canada Presidents, Brenda Andrews and Bob MacNair. They are concentrating their efforts in Ontario, where they both live.

In the past year, five new clubs have been accredited with the support of the



**Inga Thomson Hilton,
President**

Ambassador Program, in Uxbridge, Toronto (2), Sunderland, and Woodbridge. New clubs in Etobicoke and Bradford are well underway to becoming accredited. In addition, new clubs in North Battleford and Charlottetown have been created with the support of their District Directors.

Our General Manager, Wendy Machmer, in consultation with the Ambassadors, is working on developing a simplified step-by-step process for creating new clubs. We're looking forward to continuing to grow our membership, which is now at about 35,000 Probus club members.

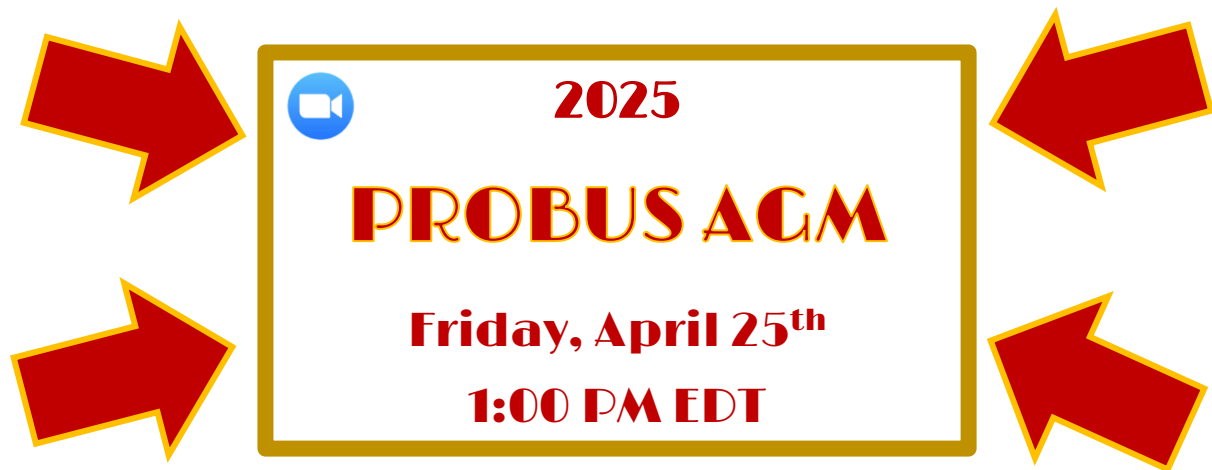
Have you ever noticed the icons at the bottom of each page on our website?

Clicking on these icons will take you to PROBUS Canada's **Facebook**, **YouTube**, and **Spotify** accounts.

We welcome your posts and comments on our Facebook page. Our YouTube channel contains promotional videos for your club to distribute and embed in your club's webpage. And we've posted a great podcast on Spotify that your club is free to use and share.

Get clicking!





NOTICE OF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of PROBUS Canada will be held on Friday, April 25th, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. EDT via Zoom. Clubs will receive the agenda package 4 weeks prior to the meeting.

PROBUS CANADA – DIRECTORS UPDATE



PROBUS Canada congratulates and welcomes our newly elected directors to the board of directors. They will take up office following the Annual General Meeting of April 25th, 2025. Thank you to the retiring directors for your service to your clubs and to PROBUS Canada.

British Columbia District 2
New Director - Sherrill Purves
Retiring Director - Jack Zaleski



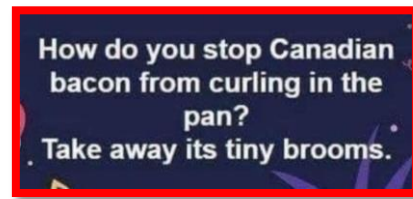
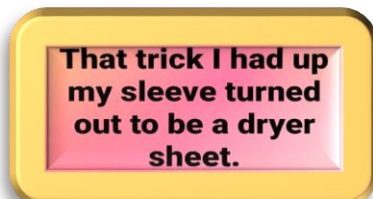
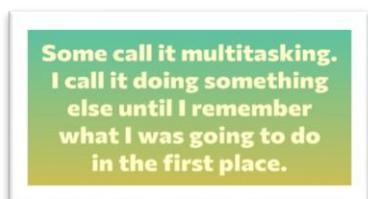
Ontario District 1
New Director - Bernetta Starkey
Retiring Director - Craig Greenwood

Ontario District 4
New Director - Russ Cousins
Retiring Director - Martin Capper

Ontario District 8
New Director - Elaine Proudfoot
Vacant Position

Congratulations to the following for being nominated for their second 3-year term:
Atlantic District and Maine - Mary Campbell British Columbia District 1 - Ian Kennedy

<https://www.probuscanada.ca/our-team/directors-staff>



Podcast

We now have a 12-minute Podcast on Spotify called [Get to Know Us – A Deep Dive into PROBUS Canada](#). Have a listen and share it with those who have questions such as 'What is Probus?'





Alberta

PROBUS ALBERTA DISTRICT CITATION AWARD PRESENTATIONS 24.11.19

The **PROBUS Club of South Edmonton** was pleased to honour three of its members recently with Citation Awards.

In all photos below, **Director Dennis Pommen** (L) and Club President **Scott Watson** (R) flank each recipient or group. We congratulate each of you!



Dr. Paul Greenwood



Ken Hoffman



Hal Smith



Congratulations! Group Hug!



Yves Forté **the first Canadian Probian to receive the Citation Award 2022!** Hal Smith, Ken Hoffman, Dr. Paul Greenwood, Membership Director Wayne McKendrick

[Our YouTube Channel](#)

We've started a YouTube channel for PROBUS Canada. You can view our promotional videos on the channel or directly from our website in the Marketing Section of the Club Reference Guide [here](#).



PROBUS ALBERTA AND BC1 CONNECT

PROBUS Canada **Alberta Director Dennis Pommen** and his Probian wife EJ visited with the **PROBUS Club of Sidney BC** and **BC District 1 Director Ian Kennedy** on February 11th, 2025. Eighty Probians shared our spirit of PROBUS three F's [Fellowship, Friendship, and Fun]. The meeting highlighted an excellent, knowledgeable, and enlightening presentation by Dr. Patricia Ganton, the Story of Vaccines.



BC1 Director Ian Kennedy brings PROBUS Canada greetings and update.



Dr. Patricia Ganton presenting the Story of Vaccines



Alberta Director Dennis Pommen; Sidney President Ken Marsh; BC1 Director Ian Kennedy



BC1 Director Ian Kennedy; South Edmonton Probian EJ Pommen; Sidney President Ken Marsh

PROBUS Canada Logo

Are you using the correct logo on your documents? A refined version was developed two years ago. It may look similar, but this is the only one you should be using. The logo and color palettes can be found in the Club Reference Guide [here](#) under Marketing.



PROBUS CLUB OF FREDERICTON



Probus Fredericton celebrated Probus Month with a cake. Since we were at the *12 Neighbours Community* for our October meeting we had the cake during our AGM on November 5th. Here, Paul cuts the Probus Month cake

Another wooden ball.
Would it kill the
makers of avocados to
put a different toy
inside

PROBUS PEI



Erinn Quinn Doyle, guest speaker at the January meeting, told us about her experience as a professional competitor in Scottish Heavy Events at Highland Games.

In the photo, above right, she shows a boot adapted for use in the Hammer Throw.

WOMEN'S PROBUS GROUP OF SAINT JOHN



Some pictures taken during our recent November meeting featuring guest speaker **Kathy Dumouchel** who spoke to us about the Brown Bag Program. She and Chairperson **Joan Shillington** are founders of the program and instrumental in creating teams that prepare lunches for students at the high school level who might otherwise have no meal during the day. These dedicated volunteers, along with their helpers, ensure that all high school students in the city have access to a healthy lunch. Kathy recently received recognition from the City of Saint John for all her volunteer efforts on behalf of the less fortunate.

In addition, we held a Member's Market where members were encouraged to bring crafts, hobbies, baked goods, pickles and preserves, books, and new giftware from home, set up tables and take a try at being an entrepreneur for a few hours. Any sales revenue went to the members, and we were pleasantly surprised by the number of people who participated.

Thanks to Lucille MacKinnon



[PROBUS Canada Facebook](#)

- Like our page
- See what other clubs are doing
- Send us photos and articles of your club's special events





THE PROBUS CLUB OF SAINT JOHN

"PINNING THE PINS"



President **Paul Meier** presents the "Past President's" pin to **Frank McCarey**



Secretary **Robert Taylor** presented PROBUS Pins to New Members **Graham McDonald, Peter McGill & Michael Gunter**



Five-year pins were presented to L to R: **Robyn Humphries, Howard Pearn, Denis Skidmore, Don Connolly, Greg Langille, Sid Lodhi**



Ten-year pins were presented to, **Tom Craig, Willard Buckley, John Doyle.**

All images by Tom Craig



Management Committee for 2025

Left to right; Past President, Frank McCarey, Peter Gaulton, President Paul Meir, V.P. Carl White, Assistant Treasurer Larry Timms, Treasurer Gordon Burnett, Tom Craig, Phoghorn Newsletter, and acting Secretary, Robert Taylor.



L - January guest speaker Heather Campbell speaking on the new Integrated Health Initiative with the new building at the UNB Saint John Campus.

R - Trevor Holder and Heather Campbell with Gordon Burnett



Full attention was evident as shown in this picture



Brian Mitchell, Ken Ellis and Fred Shillington



Howard Pearn and Mike Gunter enjoying a coffee

PROBUS Canada Membership

Across Canada there are now 250 clubs and 35,271 members.



Don Mitchner and Dale Stevens



Peter Gaulton on the right, Robert Taylor on the left



Don Mitchner, Gordon Burnett, Peter Gaulton and Ed Creaser enjoy their lunch

PROBUS CLUB OF SHEDIAC SHORES



Back: President Mike Sullivan; Secretary Mary Doherty; 1st V.P. John Filliter; Photos Bob Cameron; 2nd V.P. Joanne Nelson; Treasurer Jean-Claude Gagnon; Social Trudy Brydges. Front: Program Bea Patterson; Newsletter Brenda Mitton.

This is the new management team that took on management duties as of our November meeting. Our club management team had a difficult year last year with illnesses plaguing many of the group. We recently lost our immediate past president, Bill Belliveau, who will be much missed in our Probud family as he had looked after the newsletter for many years as well as later assuming leadership of the group.

Despite our difficulties we did manage to present a regional meeting in early September thanks mainly to our Social organizer Trudy Bridges. We also had many excellent speakers with the whole team taking turns finding someone when our Program Chair was hospitalized. We shared an awesome Christmas luncheon in December and we now have a great team to move forward in what is hopefully a healthy and productive Probud year ahead.



Thanks to Brenda Mitton

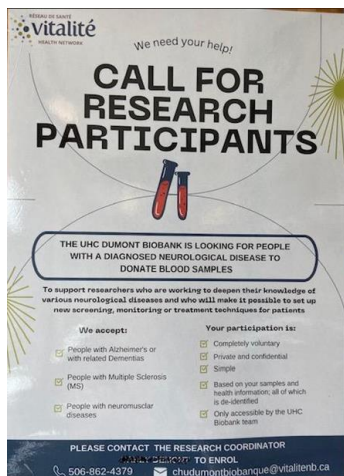
WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB OF SOUTHEAST NEW BRUNSWICK

OUR RECENT PoD*'s

Our most recent PROBUS excursion took us to the Atlantic Cancer Research Institute located within the Dr. Georges L. Dumont University Hospital Centre in Moncton. This tour was certainly a unique and enlightening experience. Who knew that we have such a renowned cancer research facility right here in Moncton!



Remi Richard, Director of Operations and a knowledgeable and most enthusiastic guide, led us through a few areas of the five-story building where we viewed the offices and labs of some of the 120 or so dedicated researchers, support staff, and students who work there. We also saw and marveled at some of the six figure (and more!) equipment which facilitate all this cutting-edge research.



Since its inception in 1998 the institute has grown in personnel and in scope. Huge strides have been made in cancer detection and disease monitoring, which is now accomplished mainly through liquid biopsy; and great improvements in patient care have been implemented through discoveries in precision medicine (targeted treatment).

As we learned that day, all this research benefits immensely by the acquisition of blood donations from those who have not been diagnosed with cancer.

These samples allow them to compare the blood components of a person with a certain type of cancer to a similar (age/gender/etc.) person without. Anyone may contribute. You will be part of the quest for a cure.

For more information about this please call the research coordinator at 506-862-4379.

Beverly Ring, Mae Smith, Cathy Smyth, Anne Cail and Kim Christie-Gallant attended a very informative tour of the Atlantic Cancer Research Institute on a separate day. The extensive tour was again led by Remi Richard, Director of Operations, whose pride and passion shone through as we toured the labs, met his colleagues, and were amazed by the scope of the global research being done and the technology being used.



***NOTE:** PoD stands for *Probus on Discovery*, a term derived to indicate extracurricular activities for small groups, organized by club members (non-Management) for members at little or no cost to the participants. Quite often they add to an earlier club presentation to augment the topic addressed. Some are in such demand that a second group may be made available.

Thanks to Sandra Panun and Kim Christie-Gallant

This Probus excursion took us to the YWCA on Kendra St in Moncton. Michelle Nadeau, CEO, gave us a history of the YWCA. In 1920, the YWCA was located on Highfield Street. When that building was sold in 2011 they moved to the Peace Centre on Church St., and since 2016 they have been relocated to Kendra St.



For over 100 years the YWCA has served as a multi-service agency offering programs and services, employment readiness, supportive housing to youth, activities, and more. They foster growth and development for women, children, and to spirit and gender-diverse individuals. The programs include education and employment, supportive housing, early learning and childcare, community outreach, and youth. The YWCA is a home for all, but the focus is on women and families. Michelle Nadeau guided us through a few areas where we viewed the daycare and learning center, apartments, common room, and kitchen, where plant-based meals and snacks are prepared. Be sure to check out their website: www.ywcamoncton.com

Thanks to Claire Stultz



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLUB PRESIDENT HEATHER FRASER



Heather Fraser (centre) was recently recognized nationally for the amazing work she has been doing here in New Brunswick. She received *the Outdoors Person of the Year Award from the Canadian Wildlife Federation*. Adding to this prestigious award, Heather was invited to attend an event in Winnipeg, where she was named winner of the *Tree Canada Award of Distinction 2024* for excellence of leadership and significant contributions to Canadian Urban Forestry. Congratulations to Heather; we thank you for your tremendous energy and enthusiasm for your work.



British Columbia #2

PROBUS Club of Vancouver January, 2025

PROBUS Canada Citation Award Presented To Past President & Honourary Member **JACK ZALESKI**

At our December 10th meeting, Past President and Honourary Member, Jack Zaleski, was recognised with the presentation of a PROBUS Canada Citation Award by Peter Scott. Peter told the members that Jack had joined our club in 2010 and joined the management committee (which has since become the board of directors) two years later. He has remained on the board since then filling a variety of positions, starting as the first chair of the website committee. Since then, he has filled the following positions – vice president, president, past president, website & data base again, activities, membership and for a short time, membership and interim activities until a permanent activities chair was appointed. He was awarded an honorary membership in 2018. Jack's only flaw is his inability to say no. Known to the members of the club's board as Jack of All Trades, but unlike his famous namesake, Jack is indeed master of them as well!

*****CONGRATULATIONS, JACK*****



L-R: Past President Peter Scott; Citation Recipient Jack Zaleski; President Richard Earthy

Jack is also just completing his 3rd year on the PROBUS Canada board of directors.



British Columbia #3

PROBUS Club of Kamloops

PROBUS Canada President, Inga Thomson Hilton, addressed the PROBUS Club of Kamloops on the occasion of their Annual General Meeting, and Celebration of 15 years as a PROBUS Club. This was on October 31st, 2024. Here, she presents Cherryl Rice, out-going Club President, with a PROBUS Canada Certificate acknowledging 15 years as a Club.



Purpose of PROBUS Global in Probuss

- Provide Fellowship, Friendship and Fun for men and women in their retirement and semi retirement years
- Stimulate thought, interest and participation at a time of life when it is easy to become complacent

What is PROBUS Global

- a volunteer-based, non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian fellowship organization
- No cost involvement just your participation and time
- Encouraging healthy minds to remain active in their later years

Website address - <https://www.probusglobal.org>

What is PROBUS Global?



We are a worldwide community of seniors interested in stimulating online conversations. The **International PROBUS Network (IPN)** has been connecting PROBUS members since 1996.

<https://probusglobal.org/ProbusGlobalApplication.html>
membership is free

In 2018 a group of IPN members began work on the PROBUS Global initiative to increase membership and promote PROBUS growth through new clubs and interclub communications to exchange ideas.

By 2025 we have grown to over 1400 members in 20 countries.

<https://probusglobal.org/Newsletters.php>
global newsletters

More information is available in the [slides from a presentation about PROBUS Global](#) in January, 2023.

PROBUS CLUB OF PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY: A THRIVING AND GROWING COMMUNITY

The PROBUS Club of Prince Edward County, has seen remarkable growth and engagement since its charter in August 2018. Even during the challenges of the pandemic, the club continued to attract new members every month, bringing its current membership to 240. With no cap on numbers, it welcomes all retired or semi-retired people who are interested in connecting with like-minded individuals in its vibrant community.

The club has embraced a hybrid meeting format, offering both in-person and Zoom options to ensure accessibility for all members. This flexibility has been particularly beneficial for those travelling, feeling unwell, or dealing with inclement weather, allowing everyone to stay connected and engaged.

Exciting Activities Ahead

The Social Committee continues to organize a diverse range of activities designed to keep members engaged and connected. Recent events, such as Games Afternoon on January 18, provided opportunities for friendly competition and camaraderie. Additionally, the newly launched knitting group is already proving to be a hit among experienced knitters. The bi-weekly Monday coffee meet-ups also remain a staple, drawing steady attendance and fostering strong community bonds.

Looking ahead in 2025, the club will continue its activities of walking, hiking, cycling, and Bevies,

Pub Night, intro to knitting, three book groups, a current events discussion group, and it also has an exciting lineup of special events, including live performances at the 1000 Islands Playhouse and County Stage Company, a mini golf and pizza outing near Sandbanks, and the ever-popular South Shore Walk. Plans are also underway for a fall Car Rally and winery visits.

The club is using ClubRunner as a database to support the work of the Management Committee and group leaders. This includes an online calendar and members are encouraged to check the Activity Calendar regularly to stay informed about upcoming events.

A Growing and Vibrant Club

As we enter 2025, it's inspiring to reflect on our club's continuous growth and success. With 240 members, the PROBUS Club of Prince Edward County remains a thriving group where friendships are formed, shared experiences are celebrated, and a strong sense of belonging flourishes. The members look forward to another exciting year and encourage all members to stay involved, try new activities, and make the most of their PROBUS experience.

For more information, visit our website at www.countyprobus.ca or our Facebook page. Reach us by email at countyprobus@gmail.com
We socialize!

Thanks to Debbie MacDonald Moynes, President

The **PROBUS Club of Prince Edward County** recently recognized Past Presidents, all of whom contributed greatly to the success of the club.

L-R Current President Debbie MacDonald Moynes; charter President Barbara Proctor, 2018-2019; Past President Andy Janikowski, 2019-2021; Past President Rick Moynes, 2021-2022; Past President Pronica Janikowski, 2022-2024.





Ontario #2

The **NEW** BROCK GEORGIAN PROBUS CLUB

District Director Chuck Heroux presented Debra Lippay the Certificate for the **new Brock-Georgina Probud Club**, and she in turn was able to present Kathy Clulow of the sponsoring **Uxbridge Probud Club** with the new Thank-you certificate.



A Little Poem for Seniors

(so true it hurts!)

Another year has passed and we're all a little older.
Last summer sure felt hotter and winter seems much colder.
There was a time not long ago when life was quite a blast
Now I fully understand about "living in the past."
We used to go to weddings, football games and lunches.
Now we go to funeral homes and after-funeral brunches.
We used to go out dining and couldn't get our fill.
Now we ask for doggie bags, come home and take our pill.
We used to often travel to places near and far.
Now we get sore asses from riding in the car.
We used to go to nightclubs and drink a little booze.
Now we stay home at night and watch the evening news.
That, my friend, is how life is and now my tale is told.
So enjoy each day and live it up...
Before you're too damned old.



Ontario #3

This has been a busy time in Ontario District 3 and Allan Evans, Director

The new **Probus Waterfront** club is thriving and now has just shy of 250 members.

The area in and around Etobicoke has a number of clubs with long waitlists. To address this a new club has been created - **Probus Humber** - on the Lakeshore. At the first meeting held November 19th, the Management Team was introduced to the members. To date, 150 people have signed up, and this will likely rise quickly to our cap of 200. (It looks as if Pickleball will be one of the most in-demand activities.) **Probus Club of Etobicoke** is the sponsor, Rob Mears is its Past-President, and Rob Wanless is the current President. All have been invaluable in publicizing the new club and in the logistics involved with signing up members. Of course, (and, as always), Brenda Andrews, our New Club Ambassador, has played a key role in making all of this happen.

To further provide Probus opportunities for those on waitlists another new club in Etobicoke will be created in early 2025. We have also been requested to form another in Mississauga so this is on the mid-term horizon too.

On November 21st, Director Allan Evans had the pleasure of presenting Brian Drennan, President of the **Mississauga South Club**, with a certificate marking 30 years of operation. He received a warm welcome from the members of this thriving club and looks forward to presenting their next 30 year certificate in 2054!

All the clubs in District 3 are busy and thriving. They now have 26 clubs and approximately 5000 members. In the future, Allan looks forward to helping foster more interclub communication, so that the experience of events, speakers, and activities can be shared.



Thanks to Allan Evans, Director



SurveyMonkey®

What Can Your Club's Members Tell You?

Does your club want suggestions for future speakers? New interest groups? Destinations for group travel? Lunch venues? Are your club's members satisfied with your meeting venue? Meeting times? Website content?

Probus clubs across Canada have asked their members these and many other questions using PROBUS Canada's SurveyMonkey account to survey their members. They get help designing and distributing their surveys, and receive a final summary report of the survey responses. If you'd like to take advantage of this no-cost service, contact your District Director.

CLUBS

Many clubs have waiting lists. Our Club Ambassadors and District Directors are working hard to start new clubs.

New Clubs

We are delighted to say that since last June, 7 new clubs have been chartered. We happily welcome you all and look forward to getting to know you.

#277 **Scugog - Uxbridge** (ON2) June 2024 chartered with 140 members.

#278 **Toronto Waterfront** (ON3) August 2024 chartered with 247 members.

#279 **Brock Georgina** (ON2) September 2024 chartered with 83 members.

#280 **Battlefords Probus Club** (SK, MB and NW ON) October 2024 chartered with 52 members.

#281 **Humber** (ON3) February 2025 chartered with 200 members.

#282 **Vaughan** (ON2) February, 2025 chartered with 46 members.

#283 **Pinkerton** (ON2) February 2025 chartered with 37 members.

We would also like to recognize a club amalgamation.

#276 **Probus PEI** (ATL) March 2024 chartered with 21 members.

Meetings are set for another 4 clubs: Humber West, Toronto North, Richmond Hill, and Penticton.

We're Growing in Leaps and Bounds!

The Newsletter for the entire GLOBE! And it's free!!

<https://probusglobal.org/Newsletters.php>



PROBUS Global Newsletter

Check out the latest PROBUS Global Newsletter

[PROBUS Global December 2024](#)

Oh, What A Knight!

Kitchener war veteran who fought the Nazis is Now a Knight at 101

A Probus centenarian from Cambridge ON recently received the Legion of Honour from a grateful French nation for doing his job well in a war that still has him thinking. (By Jeff Outhit, Waterloo Region Record)

John Neu, 101, has concluded that living well is not about following faith or flags or fancy words.

"I've reduced my beliefs to a smaller thing," he said. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

While it's not new advice, that doesn't make it any less sound. Plus, it comes from a knight.

France made John a *chevalier de la Légion d'honneur* this past July for helping to liberate that country from Nazi occupation in the Second World War. Chevalier means knight.

The Legion of Honour is France's highest order of merit, established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. The French government has named more than 1,400 Canadian war veterans to the order since 2014 when a past French president pledged to honour surviving liberators. A medal comes with the award. Essentially, it means that John has become a Knight of the French Legion of Honour.

John has mixed emotions. He served in France in 1944, ordered to do his part from behind the front lines. He helped facilitate mail and communications to help keep army units supplied in the field. He always carried a sidearm as the war put him at risk while it raged around him, but others closer to battle faced greater dangers. More than 5,000 Canadians were killed liberating France.

"What did I ever do to get this medal? Nothing. I was there and I lived to this time," he said. Eighty years later, he's still trying to reconcile what he did with what he might have had to do.

Born into a German-speaking family in Romania in 1923, he immigrated to Kitchener as a child in 1930 — just in time to watch the Great Depression impoverish his family. He enlisted in

1942 at the age of 19, knowing nothing about politics and unconcerned about the fate of the free world. Rather, he and a buddy figured it would be an adventure to join the war and fly an airplane.

"I was a very innocent, stupid young man," he recalls.



The pair went to Hamilton intending to join the Royal Canadian Air Force. The air force took his friend but rejected John, citing medical reasons. He travelled to London to join the army instead, rising to the rank of staff sergeant and was sent to Antwerp, Belgium.

So many rockets hit Antwerp it became known as the city of sudden death. He remembers a V2 rocket killing a Canadian servicewoman across the street from where he was posted there.

John encountered starving Dutch civilians in the winter of 1944-45. Food was scarce in the last winter of the war. Little could be grown or bought after the enemy blew up dykes to flood fields and slow the Allied advance into the Netherlands.

He moved into enemy territory where he saw and smelled the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp operated by the Nazis. "I couldn't believe what those people did to their prisoners," he said, adding it sickened him, rattled his faith and shredded whatever was left of his innocence.

After the Nazis were defeated, John moved to Cambridge ON where he built a career in insurance.

These days, John ambles around the Kitchener apartment he shares with Sibylle, 77, his wife for the last ten years. Sibylle was born in occupied Germany in 1947 and immigrated to Canada in 1967. John was earlier widowed by the death of Mardi, his first wife.

He reads a lot, aiming to figure out life. Sibylle playfully goes back and forth with him. They kid each other, occasionally in German, which they share as their first language. Sibylle visited her German hometown with John after they married. She discovered a lovely historic building she admired from her childhood had been demolished. It turns out the Nazis used the building to experiment on children and to shuttle prisoners to concentration camps. No one told her this while she was growing up.

The Probus Club of Cambridge team swung into action last year to make the recent January event a reality. It's difficult to recall who did what to arrange for the marvelous presentation at the Portuguese Club during their monthly General Meeting. The meeting's Welcoming Committee, and many others, lent a hand in putting it all together. Attendees included the Consulate General of France, Bertrand Pous, plus representatives of Cambridge Council,

[Link to recording of Award Ceremony for John Neu](#)

[Link to CTV News Kitchener January 29.](#)

[Link to Waterloo Regional Record article January 12.](#)

Waterloo Region Council, the Kitchener Legion, the Cambridge Armoury, and many of John and Sibylle's families and friends.

It was an impressive and important milestone for John, who remained his calm, appreciative and humble self throughout the adulations. The hundred and thirty people in attendance gave John multiple standing ovations during the presentations.



**PROBUS CANADA SALUTES YOU,
SIR JOHN!**



THE ESCARPMENT PROBUS CLUB OF MILTON

At our January meeting we had Detective Ed Adach from the Toronto Police Forensic unit who gave a fascinating presentation. Our friendly greeters were Lorrette & Pete Shermet and the 50/50 winner was Ruth Gagnon. Judy Krauss was the coffee helper.



PHOTOS WANTED!



We invite all PROBUS members to pick up their cameras or phones to capture the best in Probus. Show their happy faces - in interesting settings, doing fun things, and with gorgeous colors! Selected photos will be available for use by clubs and PROBUS Canada. We don't look for quantity but for quality.

Head on over to <https://www.probuscanada.ca/club-reference-guide/marketing/photos> to see what we already have. Then scroll down to find a form with which you can submit your own masterpieces!



Ontario #6

THE GRAND RIVER WOMEN'S PROBUS CLUB - Christmas Lunch Attendees



How to fill your own cup this week...

@thecraftpatch



UNPLUG FROM YOUR PHONE.



CALL AN OLD FRIEND.



GET LOST IN A GOOD BOOK.



SHOW KINDNESS TO A STRANGER.



FINISH A TASK YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING OFF.



MAKE SOMETHING WITH YOUR HANDS.



GO OUTSIDE.



PRAY OR MEDITATE.



PLAY WITH A CHILD.

It was a cold and blustery December day when members visited the St. Jacobs Market in Woolwich, but it was warm in the Concordia Club for lunch. We later watched a performance of "White Christmas" at the Hamilton Family Theatre in Cambridge.



Ontario #7

LIGHTHOUSE PROBUS CLUB – COLLINGWOOD, ONTARIO

November 2024

A very successful and enjoyable time was had at the Collingwood Olive Oil Company. The owners, Alex and Cheryl, were very welcoming and gave us a wonderful experience with their oils and balsamic, with salad, fruit and ice cream!



Once again the Lighthouse Probus bowlers conquered the lanes in November at Georgian Bowl. There was a mixture of beginners, pros, and speed demons competing. Some wished that they had kept the bumpers up so that we had fewer gutter balls 😞!

December 2024



Christmas Centrepieces again sold-out quickly even though two sessions were offered. Beautiful arrangements were created, and some were displayed on the tables at the Christmas Cocktail Party.



Christmas Dinner/Dance

The ladies sparkled and Oslerbrook Golf and Country Club provided a beautiful setting, along with a great staff and talented chef. The unexpected bonus was the wind tunnel getting in and out of the building! It was wild! Despite that, we danced the night away with friends and fellow members, new and seasoned! Merry Christmas 2024!!

Christmas Cocktail Party

It has been a wonderful Probus year...many events, a great team and we ended 2024 on a high note! 130 members came together for our final event of the season! We sparkled, we laughed, and we shared season's greetings! Our Annual Christmas Cocktail party, and it's a wrap! Merry Christmas to all.



Mary Villamagna, Social Chair, starts the evening off with new President **Steve Young** and Past President **Perry Braux**.

Incoming President, **Steve Young**, and Outgoing President **Perry Braux**, enjoying a laugh around the Christmas Tree.



I had a thought, but unfortunately I had a second thought. They ricocheted off each other & I can't find either anymore.

Monthly Activities

The club is extremely active throughout the year. Some of the groups that have met during the past few months include: book clubs, canapes and conversations, dinner club, instant pot, mah jongg, men's breakfast, men's social, and walk and talk.



BARRIE HURONIA PROBUS CLUB 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Our First President (and still a member!)



Some of the Original Charter Members Were Present at the Luncheon

Past Presidents with the Mayor of Barrie



The Standard Constitution for Probus Clubs

Did you know that besides The Standard Constitution for Probus Clubs there is the **PROBUS Canada Constitution?**

Changes to The Standard Constitution for Probus Clubs are approved by the Board of Directors, then distributed to the clubs for implementation.

Changes to the PROBUS Canada Constitution are first approved by the Board of Directors, then distributed to our members (the Clubs) for approval.

Letters of Congratulations



Members Enjoying our Celebration Lunch!





My light bill just came today, and I believe I got charged for the sunlight, moonlight, streetlight, the light of the Holy Spirit, and the light at the end of the tunnel!

I had a thought, but unfortunately I had a second thought. They ricocheted off each other & I can't find either anymore.

COPYRIGHT: it could get expensive!



If a Probus club operates a website, no copyrighted photos, cartoons, or clipart should be used anywhere unless duly licensed. This includes old newsletters and web pages viewable by the public. It is best to avoid images downloaded from the Internet and create own content instead. More information is available [below](https://probuscanada.freshdesk.com/support/solutions/articles/151000192388-the-danger-of-using-copyright-protected-photos-cartoons-and-clipart).

<https://probuscanada.freshdesk.com/support/solutions/articles/151000192388-the-danger-of-using-copyright-protected-photos-cartoons-and-clipart>



New Insurance Opportunity for Club Members

Say hello to exclusive savings on car and home insurance through belairdirect.

You need great coverage that can keep up with your schedule. Luckily, our official partner, belairdirect, has got you covered.

We've teamed up with them to score special deals on insurance that's tailored just for you, as a member of PROBUS Canada. belairdirect helps simplify insurance for you, to make your life easier. You'll also enjoy enhanced home coverage and the option for great car insurance add-ons with their Affinity Plus endorsement. Plus, a suite of helpful digital tools that make managing your insurance a breeze!

More than just a policy.

When you get insurance through belairdirect you're also supporting PROBUS Canada.

Get your quote today and be sure to mention you are a **PROBUS Canada member**.

Visit belairdirect.com/savings or call 1-833-887-4626.

Available to Probus members in Alberta, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador.

All group insurance opportunities, including Health and Travel Insurance, can be found on the PROBUS Canada website in the Club Reference Guide under Insurance.

<https://www.probuscanada.ca/club-reference-guide/table-of-contents#h.g9uugdnc91bv>

Liability Insurance

Every year, PROBUS Canada negotiates a contract to provide General Liability Insurance and Management Committee Insurance to our clubs. Insurance costs continue to rise every year.

Information on our insurance can be found in the [Club Reference Guide](#) in the Insurance Section.

**I HATE IT WHEN I'M
TALKING TO MYSELF
AND SUDDENLY REALIZE
I WASN'T LISTENING
AND THEN HAVE TO
START ALL OVER.**

HAPPY FRI..

Wait it's Thursday.

Son of a...

Carry on

WHAT DOES PROBUS CANADA DO FOR ITS CLUBS?

- **Provides the structure from which all clubs can operate autonomously.**
- *Provides club representation on the PROBUS Canada board of directors through Directors elected from each District.*
- **Provides a Standard Constitution for Probus Clubs and Suggested Bylaws.**
- *Provides an online Club Reference Guide (CRG) where clubs can access information, resources, and support.*
- **Maintains a national website, which includes the CRG, as well as a Knowledge Base, a Speakers Catalogue, and contact information for clubs.**
- *Manages compliance with Corporations Canada regulations and requirements for non-profit organizations.*
- **Provides Commercial General Liability (CGL) Insurance and Management (formerly Directors and Officers) Insurance for members, directors, officers, and volunteers.**
- *Negotiates group rates for optional insurance plans, including Health and Travel, Auto and Home.*
- **Retains and oversees three part-time contractors (General Manager, Financial Manager, and Webmaster) who manage PROBUS Canada's routine operations.**
- *Engages in strategic planning for PROBUS Canada's and clubs' future success.*
- **Develops marketing tools to be used at the national, district, and club levels.**
- *Trains Directors in concrete ways to support their District clubs.*
- **Provides funds to support District Director visits to clubs and District meetings.**
- *Offers interest-free short-term loans to support the founding of new probus clubs.*
- **Provides several national awards and provides certificate templates for District and club use.**
- *Provides access to PROBUS Canada's SurveyMonkey account for clubs to conduct their own membership surveys.*
- **Provides a simple website page, on request, to clubs who do not have a website.**
- *Provides free access to Google Meet as an Alternative to Zoom through Google Workspace for Non-Profits.*
- **Provides a 20% discount card for club printing at Staples.**

WENDY'S TIDBITS

Are you a club President?

Check out the new Club President's Handbook [here](#) in the Club Reference Guide

Citation Awards

Has your club submitted a nomination for a Citation Award?

Check out the list of recipients [here](#). Check the Club Reference Guide under Recognition for more details.

20% Printing Discount at Staples

Check with your club Management Committee for the discount card for Probus Members.

Keeping your club data up to date

Remember to assign someone on your Management Committee to keep your club data up to date. Easy directions can be found in the Club Reference Guide [here](#).

Knowledge Base

In addition to the Club Reference Guide, you can find answers to many questions in the [Knowledge Base](#). Check under Members in the top menu of our website.

Marketing Templates

Do you want to print posters, brochures, business cards, and more for your club? Check out the Templates that have been prepared for your use [here](#).

Certificate Templates

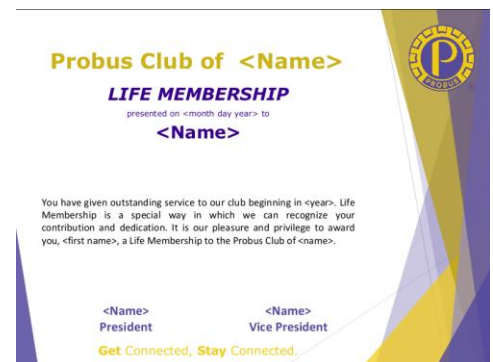
Do you want to recognize someone in your club for exceptional service? We have developed many templates for your use. You can even edit them. Check them out [here](#) in the Recognition Section of the Club Reference Guide.



Trifold



Bookmark



Template

Marketing and Promotion Tidbits



Our intention is to have some useful information – tidbits in each quarterly PROBUS Canada newsletter so let's dive in!

We have just produced a President's Handbook of really useful information for new presidents, vice presidents, potential presidents, and yes, even experienced presidents. In the past, PROBUS Canada might have overwhelmed you with printed materials, but these days everything's online with the most up-to-date information. This document is here to help you find all the info you need to run a smooth and fun presidency. Check out the Handbook on our www.probuscanada.ca website at this link:

<https://www.probuscanada.ca/club-reference-guide/club-administration/presidents-handbook>

If you have not already done so, check out the PROBUS Canada website:

www.probuscanada.ca. It has a ton of useful information; almost everything you wanted to know about Probus. The *Club Reference Guide* is the section you will likely go to most often:

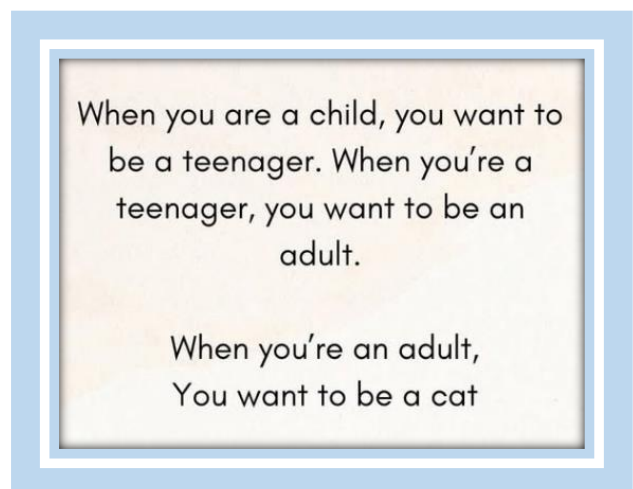
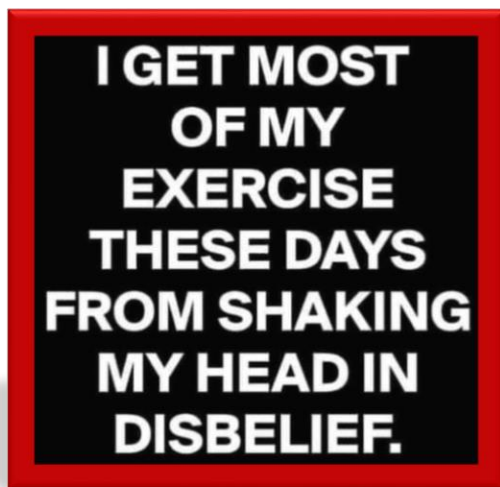
<https://www.probuscanada.ca/club-reference-guide>. You have many members in your club doing great things on behalf of the Club so why not recognize their contribution with a certificate from a template that you can edit yourselves:

<https://www.probuscanada.ca/club-reference-guide/recognition/certificates-and-awards>.

Another lesser known area in the website is the *Knowledge Base and Speakers Catalog* in the **Members** section of the website. Check out the Knowledge Base and search for answers to your questions: <https://probuscanada.freshdesk.com/support/home>

You may or may not know that PROBUS Canada conducted a *Google Ads and Meta Ads* campaign in December. Our intention was to introduce more people to our PROBUS Canada brand and the great opportunity that Probus has to offer for fun, friendship, and fellowship – and more fun! Not all clubs are looking for new members but many are and there are huge gaps in Canada where a Probus club would be a great asset. One of our challenges has been to know if our advertising has had success in attracting new members. We are currently trialing a survey of 15 clubs across 5 Districts with the intent of getting objective measures about which recruiting methods have shown some measurable success. If the trial survey is successful and useful our intent is to canvas all the clubs in Canada. This is intended to help you and PROBUS Canada target our efforts (and investments).

That's it for now ... until the next newsletter – the Marketing and Promotion Team



The 1% of the Greatest and Silent Generations

Jay Edwards August 28, 2023

99% of those born between 1930 and 1946 (worldwide) have now passed on. If you were born in this time span, you are one of the rare surviving one percenters of this special group. Their age range is between 77 and 93 years old, a 16-year age span.

- *You are the smallest group of children born since the early 1900's.*
- *You are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war that rattled the structure of our daily lives for years.*
- *You are the last to remember ration books for everything from gas to sugar to shoes to stoves.*
- *You saved tin foil and poured fried meat fat into tin cans.*
- *You can remember milk being delivered to your house early in the morning and placed in the "milk box" on the porch.*
- *Discipline was enforced by parents and teachers.*
- *You are the last generation who spent childhood without television; instead, you "imagined" what you heard on the radio.*
- *With no TV, you spent your childhood "playing outside".*
- *There was no Little League.*
- *There was no city playground for kids.*
- *The lack of television in your early years meant that you had little real understanding of what the world was like.*
- *We got "black-and-white" TV in the late 40s that had 3 stations and no remote.*
- *Telephones were one to a house, often shared (party lines), and hung on the wall in the kitchen (no cares about privacy).*
- *Computers were called calculators; they were hand-cranked.*
- *Typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage, and changing the ribbon.*
- *'INTERNET' and 'GOOGLE' were words that did not exist.*
- *Newspapers and magazines were written for adults and the news was broadcast on your radio in the evening (your dad would give you the comic pages when he read the news).*
- *New highways would bring jobs and mobility. Most highways were 2 lanes (no interstates).*
- *You went downtown to shop. You walked to school.*
- *The radio network expanded from 3 stations to thousands.*
- *Your parents were suddenly free from the confines of the depression and the war, and they threw themselves into working hard to make a living for their families.*
- *You weren't neglected, but you weren't today's all-consuming family focus.*
- *They were glad you played by yourselves while they were busy discovering the postwar world.*
- *You entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where you were welcomed, enjoyed yourselves.*
- *You felt secure in your future, although the depression and poverty were deeply remembered.*
- *Polio was still a crippler. Everyone knew someone who had it.*
- *You came of age in the '50s and '60s.*
- *You are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our homeland.*
- *World War 2 was over and the cold war, terrorism, global warming, and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life.*
- *Only your generation can remember a time after WW2 when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty.*
- *You grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better.*
- *More than 99% of you are retired now, and you should feel privileged to have "lived in the best of times!"*

If you have already reached the age of 77 years old, you have outlived 99% of all the other people in the world who were born in this special 16 year time span. You are a 1%er! Thanks to Dennis Pommen

Clubs Helping Clubs

One Probus Club's solution to the perennial President-recruitment problem, born out of necessity during unusual times.

(Tara Seon: Past Co-president; Social Chair; Speaker Chair; Secretary (several concurrently))

At the start of the pandemic, the incoming president and vice-president of our Probus Club were faced with having to do "business" in a totally unfamiliar way. If we were going to have them, Members' and Management meetings would have to be on-line to continue to engage members and address the specter of isolation. Fortunately, our abilities to engage members continued to change and evolve as the lockdown persisted.

We were not familiar with Zoom technology. Given the newness of managing during a pandemic and the typically nebulous duties of the vice president role, we both agreed that sharing the president's workload made sense. In this co-role, we would learn together. To do this fairly, the three main roles - facilitating (1) the monthly members' meetings, (2) the management meetings and (3) preparing the monthly newsletters - would alternate between the two of us for the months (we never thought it would turn out to be years!) of the pandemic.

A schedule was drawn up. The two co-presidents indicated which months (mostly alternating) they would commit to take responsibility for each of the 3 areas mentioned above. We took into account each other's commitments and situations (e.g. spending the lockdown at the cottage) which could impinge on availability. In these instances, we agreed we would skip the month if the other person could not pick up the slack - something we (happily) never had to do.

This article is not about Zoom technology, so I will provide few details of how meeting online evolved beyond saying: both co-presidents came from a place of commitment to provide members with some means of staying connected. As completely non-tech co-presidents, sharing the workload was an absolute boon for taking the pressure off. We stumbled with the technology at the start; likely other Clubs did as well. However, one member stepped up, learned the technology and provided us - and the members of our club - with excellent support. We held our monthly members' meetings on-line to share updates and information. Members could meet each other in break-out rooms to chat, play games etc.

Our management meetings and newsletters were also online. We followed the agreed-to schedule with each co-president, again alternating responsibility where possible. Where a commitment became impossible to fulfill, the other person stepped in.

Once the pandemic was over, our Club could find no-one who would step up to the 2-year president commitment. But there was little trouble finding two individuals who would be co-presidents. And this is exactly what our Club has continued to do. Of course, and as expected, each duo of new co-presidents changes the schedule to match their availability.

The usual Probus process is for a 2-year commitment from a vice-president to 'learn the job' (redundant, perhaps, in clubs of retired, mainly professional adults?) and assist the president. Then that VP becomes president - again for 2 years. Perhaps this 4-year commitment is prohibitive for some? We suggest 2 individuals sharing 2 years in a role in which they support each other as they contribute to the Club, could be a possible solution for some Clubs.

If there is interest, we would be happy to share a sample of our schedule with you.

Contact tara.seon@yahoo.ca

**Think of a number
between 0 and 20.
Add 32 to it. Multiply
by 2. Subtract 1.
Now close your eyes.
Its dark isn't it**

**Whoever came up with
the word dentures really
missed the opportunity
to call them
"substitooths"**



Editor: Mary Campbell, Atlantic/Maine Director

Send your stories, photos, information to mary.campbell@probuscanada.ca

Get Connected. Stay Connected.



MARCH 9TH

www.probuscanada.ca